

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 SSO-00

RSR-01 /201 W

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P R 132235Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1515

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN EXPORT CONTROLS ON BEEF AND PORK

FOR AGRICULTURE

1. GOC OFFICIAL PROVIDED US FOLLOWING DRAFT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE TO PRESS AUGUST 14 AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE CANADIAN BEEF AND PORK WILL BE PUT UNDER EXPORT CONTROL FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD EFFECTIVE 1201 AUGUST 14, THE HONORABLE ALASTAIR GILLESPIE, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, ANNOUNCED TODAY (AUGUST 14).

THE MINISTER SAID THAT WHILE THE SUPPLY OF MEAT IN CANADA HAS BEEN ADEQUATE, THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPOSING EXPORT CONTROLS TO ENSURE THAT SUPPLIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADEQUATE FOR CANADIAN CONSUMERS.

INNERQUOTE BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL

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EXPORTS TO THE CANADIAN ECONOMY THE GOVERNMENT IS

RELUCTANT TO RESORT TO EXPORT CONTROLS END INNERQUOTE.

MR. GILLESPIE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION PARTICULARLY THE PRICE FREEZE ON BEEF APPEAR TO HAVE CREATED A SUPPLY SHORTAGE IN THE U.S. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT SOME PRODUCERS IN THAT COUNTRY ARE AT PRESENT WITHHOLDING SUPPLIES FOR THEIR MARKET. TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NOT A DRAIN ON CANADIAN SUPPLIES AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, TO PROTECT THE CANADIAN MEAT CONSUMER WE ARE INSTITUTING THESE TEMPORARY CONTROLS.

MR. GILLESPIE NOTED THAT SOME CANADIAN CONSUMERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MAKING ABNORMALLY HEAVY PURCHASES OF MEAT IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE SHORTAGES. HE SAID THAT THE CONTROLS ANNOUNCED TODAY (AUGUST 14) SHOULD ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF MEAT PRODUCTS TO CANADIAN CONSUMERS.

THE CONTROLS WILL APPLY TO LIVE CATTLE AND HOGS AND FRESH, CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF AND PORK. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO CONTROL CANADIAN EXPORTS OF MEATS WHICH HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED BECAUSE OF DISTORTING EFFECTS OF THE U.S. SITUATION. UNDER THESE MEASURES, TRADITIONAL TRADE IN LIVE ANIMALS AND MEAT PRODUCTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT EXCEED LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. UNQUOTE.

2. FULL TEXT PRESS RELEASE WILL BE AIRMAILED AUGUST 14.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FEDERAL CABINET IS STILL MEETING ON FOOD PRICES AND WE ARE TOLD WILL BE MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT 8:00 P.M. OTTAWA TIME TODAY, AUGUST 13.
JOHNSON

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